

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9914

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FOR CU/AF

USIA FOR IAA

EO 11652: DECON UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: AART, ZA

SUBJECT: BLACK AMERICAN ART EXHIBIT

1. HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH IMPRESSED BY APPEAL AND SUCCESS OF PAINSTAKINGLY SELECTED AND TASTEFULLY DISPLAYED COLLECTION OF BLAC AMERICAN ART WORK AT AMBASSADOR CARTER'S RESIDENCE IN DAR. IT EVIDENT FROM OUR EXAMINATION OF AND INVOLVEMENT IN EMERGENT THOUGH STILL RATHER BARREN ZAMBIAN CULTURAL SCENE, SIMILAR EXHIBIT IN ZAMBIA WOULD BE VERY SIGNIFICANT, WELCOME, AND EFFECTIVE STIMULUS TO THE ARTS HERE AND HELP SATISFY GROWING ZAMBIAN CURIOSITY ABOUT NATURE, FORCE, AND EXCELLENCE OF BLACK AMERICAN ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT.

2. RECOGNIZE VERY WELL ASSEMBLY OF GOOD REPRESENTATIVE COLLECTION POSES QUITE DIFFICULT PROBLEM AT BEST AND WILL TAKE SOME TIME, AS VALUE OF EFFORT IS PERFECTLY CLEAR.

3. WE NATURALLY OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THOSE FAMILIAR WITH SUCH ENDEAVORS, BUT OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE FIELD OF POSSIBILITIES HAS LEAD TO COMPILATION OF FOLLOWING LIST OF ARTISTS WHOSE WORKS WOULD ADMIRABLY SERVE
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OUR PURPOSES.

JACOB LAWRENCE	AUGUSTA SAVAGE
HENRY O. TANNER	WILLIAM JOHNSON
NORMAN LEWIS	WILLIAM EDMONDSON
RAYMOND SAUNDERS	CHARLES WHITE
DAVID DRISKELL	HALE WOODRAFF

4. ENVISION INITIAL EXHIBITION OF BLACK AMERICAN ART WORKS IN COUNTRY'S FOUR MAIN TOWNS (LUSAKA, KITWE, NDOLA, AND LIVINGSTONE). THEY WOULD THEN BE PLACED IN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY EXHIBIT AS ONE OF FEATURES IN CONNECTION WITH OPENING OF NEW USIS CENTER IN JULY 1975, AFTER WHICH WORKS WOULD BE RETURNED TO RESIDENCE.

5. VERY MUCH HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL URGENTLY CONSIDER EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL AND PROCEED WITH EFFORT TO COLLECT WORKS FOR OUR USE AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

6. REALIZE WHOLE PROCESS WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME, BUT URGE AS INITIAL STEP SPECIAL ATTEMPT BE MADE TO SECURE THREE OR FOUR REPRESENTATIVE WORKS WHICH BLACK AMERICAN ART EXPERT STAG PROF. JAMES E. LEWIS COULD BRING WITH HIM FOR USE IN CONNECTION HIS VISIT HERE (STATE 22051, LUSAKA 196) AND FOR OUR SUBSEQUENT RETENTION.
NELSON

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